

**Board Report
Douglas County West High School**

**Jim Knott – High School Principal
January 13, 2025**

Final exams were held on December 19 and 20, effectively ending the first semester at DC West. Second semester classes began for students on Tuesday, January 7. Winter activities continued over winter break and are at about the halfway point.

With the state ACT test date coming up for all juniors on March 25th, part of the focus at the high school is to make sure all of our students are as prepared as possible. As mentioned in my previous board report, John Baylor ACT Test Prep classes start in January for all juniors and volunteering sophomores. Baylor Test Prep provides five, one and a half hour sessions during the school day in January and February to prepare students for the ACT test. Lessons focus not only on content in math, science, and ELA, but also on test taking strategies.

The high school staff is also working to provide any needed “last-minute” ACT-based instruction to juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. On Friday, January 10th, the high school staff met to do an item-by-item question review of 11th grade PreACT tests. Math teacher Heather Cox stated, “PreACT item analysis helps teachers know if the ACT content is being taught in our curriculum and retained by students. If we find a large percentage of students miss a certain question, it helps us to know what concepts our students are struggling with. When we know that information, we can then go back and review and reteach the concepts as necessary in our classes.” Staff members leave the meeting with a list of concepts to review and reteach in the tested areas of math, science, and ELA.

In July, former DC West graduate, Garrett Hoffman was hired as a High School Special Education teacher at DC West. He started at DC West High School on January 6th. Garrett said, “I have really enjoyed my first couple of days. I think it helps that I am a 2021 DC West graduate and already feel at home with the students and staff. I am fortunate to join a great community of teachers and students and am looking forward to the rest of the semester.” A brief bio of Mr. Hoffmann is listed below.

Garrett Hoffman

Education: University of Nebraska, Omaha

*Bachelor of Science (Dec. 2024)

*Major: Secondary Special Education

*TEDO (Teacher Educational Diversity) Member

Teaching Related Experience

*Liberty Middle School, Papillion LaVista Community Schools (Fall 2024)

*Student Teaching – Middle School Special Education

*Assistant Track Coach – Hurdles & Middle Distance

Special Education Practicums

*Elkhorn Middle School (Spring 2024)

*Bellevue East High School (Spring 2023)

*Omaha Northwest High School (Fall 2022)

High School enrollment as of January 8, 2025

<u>9th</u>	<u>10th</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>12th</u>	<u>Total</u>
95	83	67	81	326